Are INVASIVE WEEDS ruining your neighborhood?

Invasive weeds are plants that have been introduced into an environment outside of their native range, where they have few or no natural enemies to limit their spread. Invasive weeds affect us all—as homeowners, taxpayers, consumers, tourists, and land managers.

Invasive weeds:

- Cost you money for control
- Decrease property values
- Ruin trails and parks
- Increase fire danger
- Destroy wildlife habitat
- Reduce opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping, and other recreational activities
- Damage water quality
- Ruin your view—and your enjoyment of your neighborhood

HOW YOU CAN HELP ›››

Canada Thistle

Cirsium arvense

- Perennial
- Grows 1 to 4 feet tall
- Leaves are lance-shaped and irregularly lobed with spiny, toothed margins
- Purple to white flower heads are ½ to ¾ inch in diameter
- Very aggressive and difficult to control
- Spreads by roots and seeds

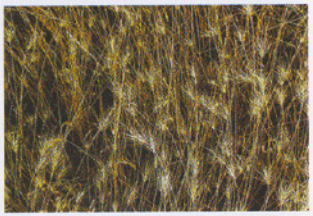
Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

- Perennial
- Grows up to 6 to 8 feet tall
- Stems are square
- Rose-purple flowers are very showy from mid-summer to fall
- Grows in moist or marshy sites
- Spreads by seed and rhizomes.

Medusahead

(Taeniatherum caput-medusae)



- Winter annual grass
- Grows 1/2 to 2 feet tall
- Leaf blades are more or less rolled
- Produces a long-awned spike with twisted awns
- Very aggressive and competitive
- Spreads by seed

Russian Knapweed

Centaurea repens

- Perennial
- Grows 1½ to 3 feet tall
- Forms dense colonies
- Black roots may grow deeply in some soils
- Pink, white or lavender cone-shaped flower heads are ¼ to ½ inch in diameter
- Spreads by seed and roots

Musk Thistle

Carduus nutans

- Biennial
- Grows to seven feet tall
- Spiny margins on leaves
- Large flowers are deep rose, violet or purple, and occasionally white
- Single flower nods at end of stem
- Reproduces from seed

Saltcedar
a.k.a. Tamarisk

Tamarix ramosissima

- Deciduous or evergreen, deep-rooted shrubby tree
- Grows 5 to 20 feet tall
- Reddish-brown bark and pink to white flowers
- Forms dense colonies
- Spreads by seed and disturbed roots

Spotted Knapweed

Centaurea maculosa

- Biennial
- Grows 1 to 3 feet tall
- Single flowering heads develop at the end of branches from June to October
- Flowers are pinkish-purple or rarely cream-colored, with spots on bracts
- Spreads by seed and can invade healthy rangelands

Perennial Pepperweed

a.k.a. Tall Whitetop

Lepidium latifolium

- Perennial
- Grows 2 feet to 6 or more feet tall
- White flowers resemble baby's breath
- Forms dense colonies
- Spreads by seed and creeping roots

Dalmatian Toadflax

(Linaria genistifolia ssp. dalmatica)

- Perennial
- Grows to 3 feet tall
- Heart-shaped waxy green leaves
- Yellow flowers look like snapdragon
- Has extensive, deep root system
- Spreads by seed and underground root stalks

Scotch Thistle

Onopordum acanthium

- Biennial
- Grows up to 12 feet tall
- Stems have broad, spiny wings
- Leaves are large, spiny, and hairy, giving a grayish appearance
- Violet to reddish flowers are 1 to 2 inches in diameter
- Reproduces from seed

Yellow Starthistle

Centaurea solstitialis

- Annual or short-lived perennial
- Grows 1 to 3 feet tall
- Grayish-green plant with rigid stems
- Bright yellow flower heads are about 1 inch in diameter
- Flowers have long, sharp, rigid spines at the base
- Spreads by seed

Hoary Cress

Cardaria draba

- Perennial
- Grows up to 2 feet tall
- Has a deep root system
- White flower clusters have flat tops
- Spreads by seed and from root segments if the soil is tilled

Plant photos are courtesy of:
Whitson, Tom D., Larry C. Burrill, Steven A. Dewey, David W. Cudney, B.E. Nelson, Richard D. Lee and Robert Parker. 1996. *Weeds of the West*. The Western Society of Weed Science in cooperation with the Western United States Land Grant Universities Cooperative Extension Service. 630 pp.

How it happens

Weeds are spread in many ways. Any time people or their animals work or play in areas infested by invasive weeds, there is a chance they will move the infestation to a new area.

When a vehicle is driven through a weed-infested area, weed seeds may become lodged between the tire treads, in the coils of a winch, behind the license plate, or in cracks and crevices on the underside of the vehicle. Seeds may travel hundreds of miles before becoming dislodged in an area where weeds were not previously found. The source of many infestations has been traced to roads, trails, railroads and other transportation corridors.

Weeds are also spread during construction and maintenance activities, when contaminated fill, gravel, topsoil and other products are moved from an infested site to your neighborhood.

Puncturevine seeds have stuck to this bicycle tire.

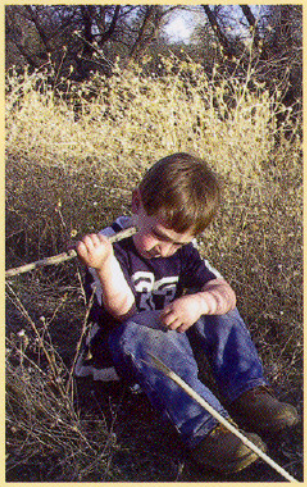
Do's and don'ts of weed control

- Take no action until you're sure the weed is correctly identified. Don't be afraid to ask for help (see contact information on back panel).
- Avoid continually disturbing soil, or leaving expanses of bare soil. These actions encourage weed infestation. Clear only the area necessary for your project.
- Make sure any shipments of gravel, fill, or topsoil come from weed-free locations. If necessary, inspect the source.
- After earth-moving construction projects, monitor the site carefully to find and control weed infestations early.

Always inspect your ATV for plant seeds or parts when driving through infested areas.

How you can get involved

- Map weeds in your neighborhood.
- Take personal responsibility for controlling weeds on your property.
- Give a talk about weeds at your homeowner's association or advisory board.
- Organize or participate in a neighborhood weed mapping and control project.
- Distribute this brochure throughout your neighborhood.
- Drive only on established roads and trails. Never drive through weed infestations.
- Never bring unidentified plants home — dead or alive!
- If you find a few weeds without flowers or seeds, pull, bag, and dispose of them in the trash.
- If you find a weed infested area, report it to the appropriate entity listed on the back of this brochure.



Weeds can invade neighborhoods, making recreational areas unusable.

Contacts to help you get started

General weed information:

Nevada Department of Agriculture..... 688-1180
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension ... 784-4848

To report an infestation on roads or at parks:

Washoe County Roads.....328-2183
Washoe County Parks 828-6642
City of Reno, Streets and Ditches 334-2099
City of Reno, Parks 334-2270
City of Sparks, Streets 353-2300
City of Sparks, Parks 353-2376
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson RD....882-2766
Bureau of Land Management 885-6000

Mapping and reporting:

For 1/2-hour training on mapping protoco

Contact Sue Donaldson, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension 784-4848

If you have global positioning satellite (GPS) site information for the state weed map:

Contact Dave Pickel, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 784-5863, ext. 118; dpickel@nv.nrcs.usda.gov

If you have general mapping information:

Contact Wayne Johnson, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 784-1334; fax, 784-1342; wjohnson@cabnr.ag.unr.edu

To report an invasive weed:

Call WeedBusters Hotline..... 325-6989

For help identifying weeds and for control recommendations:

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Horticulture Department..... 784-4848

Weeds on the Web:

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
www.unce.unr.edu

Federal Invasive Species Information
www.invasivespecies.gov

Nevada Weed Action Committee
www.agri.state.nv.us/nwac

PLANTS database:
plants.usda.gov

Center for Invasive Plant Management: www.weedcenter.org

EncycloWeedia: www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/encycloweedia/encycloweedia_hp.htm

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WEED COORDINATING GROUP
Fighting Weeds at Home